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RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0117
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 1300

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 000476

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/RA (JSHAUNFILED, MCLLOUD), NEA/ELA (MGREGONIS)
AND NEA/IPA (KFRELICH)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/30/2019
TAGS: [KWBG](#) [SENV](#) [PREL](#) [IS](#) [JO](#) [SW](#)
SUBJECT: SWEDISH COMMENTS ON JORDAN-ONLY RED SEA
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REF: STATE 78652

Classified By: ADCM Laura Kirkconnell for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

1.(SBU) July 30, Emboffs presented reftel to Christian Nilsson, Desk Officer in the Middle East and North Africa Department, at the Swedish Foreign Ministry. Nilsson reacted with surprise to the JRSP project development, saying that he had not heard about the project yet. He confirmed that Sweden has provided about \$3 million to the World Bank-sponsored Red Sea-Dead Sea conveyance project (RDS) feasibility study as a regional strategy for cooperation and peace building.

2.(C) Nilsson admitted that the Swedes may be partly to blame for the slow movement on the RDS feasibility study because of the need to fully examine eco-management issues. He stated that Swedes wanted to take everything into account before moving forward with the project. Nilsson stressed that regional water issues are part of the long-term Swedish strategy of engagement in Jordan, Syria and Israel. He emphasized that regional integration * not unilateral action * would factor in to the Swedish position on the JRSP. Post will report any additional information septel.

SILVERMAN